

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSY-02 AID-05 IGA-02 /072 W
-----312036Z 075539 /41

R 310154Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7806

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS ON MINDANAO AND US MILITARY AGREEMENTS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT (FROM TAPE) OF MARCOS RESPONSE AT
MARCH 29 PRESS CONFERENCE TO TWO QUESTIONS ON FOREIGN
MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND MINDANAO:

1. IN CASE OF A MESSY TYPE OF WAR...WHICH WOULD RESULT
TO THE TOTAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NEGOTIATIONS... HOW WOULD
YOU (WORD INAUDIBLE) MR. PRESIDENT TO THE TOTAL SCRAPPING
OF THE AGREEMENTS?

A. WHICH AGREEMENTS?

Q. THE U.S. MILITARY AGREEMENTS.

A. IT HAS NO RELATION WHATSOEVER. FIRST OF ALL ALLOW
ME TO SAY THAT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THE AGREEMENTS WITH
THE UNITED STATES PERTAIN TO EXTERNAL THREATS. THEY DO
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NOT COVER INTERNAL THREATS AGAINST THE POLITICAL STABILITY
OF THE PHILIPPINES. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT WE SHOULD FIGHT OUR OWN INTERNAL
WARS. ANY REBELLION, ANY SUBVERSION, SHOULD BE HANDLED
BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. AND I WOULD LIKE TO STATE
THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF HANDLING ANY SUBVERSION, ANY
REBELLION...UH...WE HAVE SUCCEEDED SO FAR IN NEUTRALIZING

ANY ELEMENT THAT SEEKS TO DESTABILIZE OUR GOVERNMENT THROUGH SUBVERSION, REBELLION... THEREFORE IT IS TRUE THAT WHILE A MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES WOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR CAPABILITY CERTAINLY MY FEELING... OR FEELING EVEN IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS THAT UH AND UH THE QUESTION OF THE MINDANAO CONFLICT CAN BE SETTLED WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES. I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT THIS. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF CALLING ON ANY-BODY, ANY OTHER COUNTRY, TO HELP US IN QUELLING ANY DISORDER, ANY RIOT, ANY REBELLION, ANY SUBVERSION, WITHIN OUR COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC WILL HANDLE IT ALONE. WE ARE CAPABLE OF DOING IT ALONE. THANK YOU.

Q. (FROM MR. RODOLFO SUPANG OF FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY, BY PHONE) IT IS OUR OBSERVATION THAT EVEN AT THE MOST CRITICAL STATE OF THE REBELLION IN MINDANAO YOU DID NOT SEEK ANY FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE AGAINST SEEKING ANY FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE?

A. BECAUSE HISTORY TEACHES US AND OUR OWN EXPERIENCE OF COURSE TEACHES US THAT FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE OFTEN SPAWNS MORE PROBLEMS THAN THE REBELLION ITSELF. AND IT IS THE POLICY OF OUR GOVERNMENT, OF ANY ADMINISTRATION, THAT ALL INTERNAL THREATS AGAINST POLITICAL STABILITY SHOULD BE HANDLED BY THE PHILIPPINES ALONE. IN FACT WHEN PRESIDENT FORD WAS HERE YOU WILL REMEMBER I SAID IT IS OUR POLICY THAT WE WILL NOT ALLOW THE STATIONING OF GROUND TROOPS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

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2. COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS EMBROIDER ON THE STANDARD PUBLIC REFRAIN BY MARCOS THAT THE GOP WILL HANDLE ITS OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING SUBVERSION AND REBELLION. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO QUESTION THAT THE GOP WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS US PRIVATELY FOR CERTAIN ITEMS IN THE MAP AND FMS PIPELINES WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN SEPTELS. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PROVINCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA04686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770111-0375
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977033/aaaaachn.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f96520b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3019773
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCOS ON MINDANAO AND US MILITARY AGREEMENTS
TAGS: MARR, PINT, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f96520b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009